

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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SAM-01 SAB-01 TRSE-00 /069 W
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R 020810Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3773

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4028

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, KU

SUBJ: IF EGYPT OPTS OUT-A KUWAITI PERSPECTIVE

REF: A. JIDDA 6669 B. KUWAIT 4023

1. EMBASSY JIDDA'S VIEWS (REFTEL) CONCERNING EGYPT'S POSSIBLE LOSS OF ARAB SUPPORT AS A RESULT OF MOVING TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL WERE READ WITH INTEREST HERE. THE FOLLOWING IS OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF PROBABLE KUWAITI ATTITUDES ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

2. KUWAIT'S OFFICIAL LUKEWARM PUBLIC POSITION REGARDING THE SINAI AGREEMENT HAS ENCOURGED THOSE SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION WHICH ARE (AND HAVE BEEN) RESENTFUL OF EGYPT TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST HER.

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INCLUDED IN THIS GROUP ARE THE MANY PALESTINIAN ANB SYRIAN

JOURNALISTS IN KUWAIT WHO, FOR VARIED POLITICAL REASONS, WELCOME THE CHANCE TO SNIPE; AND SOME KUWAITI SUPER-NATIONALISTS WHO HAVE ALWAYS SUSPECTED EGYPTIAN MOTIVES, NO MATTER WHO RULED, AND WHO ARE PARTICULARLY ANNOYED THAT SADAT HASN'T DONE MORE TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT OR KUWAIT'S BORDER DISPUTE WITH IRAQ.

3. IN THE LATTER GROUP FALLS ABD-AL AZIZ AL-MUSSAID, PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTY AND OWNER OF ARABIC AND ENGLISH DAILIES "AL RAI AL AAM" AND "DAILY NEWS" RESPECTIVELY. MUSSAID RECENTLY ANNOUNCED HIS PLANS TO INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHEN IT CONVENES IN LATE OCTOBER SUSPENDING KUWAIT KHARTOUM AND RABAT SUBSIDY PAYMENTS TO EGYPT. THIS ACT, TOGETHER WITH VARIOUS ANTI-EGYPTIAN ITEMS APPEARING IN MUSSAID'S NEWSPAPERS, TOUCHED OFF HEATED DISPUT WHICH SAW THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT ORDER ANY AND ALL EGYPTIAN WORKING ON SUCH PAPERS TO QUIT. GOK FOREIGN MINISTRY REPORTEDLY CALLED IN THE AMBASSADOR TO WARN HIM OF OUTBURSTS WHICH CONSTITUTE INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL KUWAITI AFFAIRS. FROM WHAT WE CAN GATHER, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO OFFICIAL BLESSING FOR MUSSAID'S PARLIAMENTARY PROPOSAL AND IT WILL THUS FALL.

4. EMBASSY DOES HAVE A REPORT THAT AMIR IS PLANNING TRIPS TO DAMASCUS AND CAIRO SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETURN TO KUWAIT FROM SUMMER HOLIDAY IN ORDER TO GET IT ALL FIRST-HAND, AFTER WHICH WE MIGHT POSSIBLY SEE A KUWAITI POLICY MODIFICATION. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT GOK WILL GET OUT AHEAD OF SAUDI ARABIA IN REDUCING FINANCIAL AID, ALTHOUGH WITH ITS MUCH FREER AND NOISIER PRESS, "KUWAIT" MAY APPEAR TO BE DOING SO. HOWEVER, IT DOES SEEM LIKELY THAT, AS WITH THE SAG, THE GOK WILL BE MORE CAUTIOUS IN SUPPLYING EGYPT IN THE NEAR FUTURE WITH UNTIED FINANCIAL SUPPORT. REFTEL B DESCRIBES OTHER CURRENT PROBLEMS KUWAIT HAVING IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT.
STOLTZFUS

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